

OPINION 1157

SPHEX VIATICA [SIC] LINNAEUS, 1758 (INSECTA,
HYMENOPTERA): DESIGNATION OF LECTOTYPE

RULING – (1) It is hereby ruled that the valid lectotype of the nominal species *Sphex viatica* [sic] Linnaeus, 1758, is the specimen so designated by van der Vecht, 1958, *Entomol. Ber.* vol. 18, p. 47.

(2) The specific name *viaticus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Sphex viatica* [sic], and as defined by the lectotype accepted in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2712.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2061

On 1 February 1974 a paper was received from Dr C.W. Sabrosky asking the Commission to answer two general questions and also to decide which of two possible specimens – one designated by Richards, 1935, and the other by van der Vecht, 1958 – is the valid lectotype of *Sphex viaticus* Linnaeus, 1758. (That species provided an example of the two general questions.) The paper was sent to the printer on 5 April 1974 and published on 20 September 1974 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31, pp. 159–163. No use of the plenary powers was involved. The late Dr. Lemche criticised the application for not offering clear alternatives for a vote by the Commission; Dr Sabrosky agreed that the members of the Commission should be asked to vote either for the specimen designated by Richards, or for the specimen designated by van der Vecht. No other comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 20 August 1979 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1979)15 either for the specimen designated by Richards or for the specimen designated by van der Vecht as lectotype of *Sphex viaticus*. At the close of the voting period on 20 November 1979 the state of the voting was as follows:

for the specimen designated by Richards – Habe

for the specimen designated by van der Vecht – eighteen (18) votes, received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Vokes, Alvarado, Mroczkowski, Willink, Trjapitzin, Tortonese, Sabrosky,

Hahn, Welch, Brinck, Bernardi, Corliss, Nye, Heppell, Cogger, Bayer. Dupuis abstained from voting. Late votes for the van der Vecht specimen were received from Kraus, Halvorsen and Starobogatov. Ride was on leave of absence. No vote was returned by Binder.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their votes:

Sabrosky: 'Day, 1979, *Bull. brit. Mus. (nat. Hist.)*, Entomol., vol. 38, p. 16, has reviewed the complex history of *Sphex viaticus*.'

Hahn: 'I vote for designation by van der Vecht, 1958, for the following reasons: (1) It is apparently not certain that the specimen designated by Richards, 1935, was a member of Linnaeus's type series; (2) In Dr Sabrosky's footnote, *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31, p. 161, it is clearly stated that it was not Professor Richards's intention to designate a lectotype; (3) in contrast to that specimen, that of van der Vecht undoubtedly belongs to the type series of *viaticus*; (4) Linnaeus, 1761, and Villers, 1789, have not designated a lectotype, as far as I can see from Dr Sabrosky's text; Professor Richards unequivocally says that he did not do it in 1935. Therefore, under Article 74 of the Code, van der Vecht, 1958 was the first author who has designated a valid lectotype, in the sentence quoted by Dr Sabrosky in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31, p. 160, lines 6-7.'

Brinck: 'Formally, this is a rather simple case: (1) *viaticus* Linnaeus was a composite species, and (2) van der Vecht validly designated a lectotype. I have voted accordingly. But from a taxonomic point of view I hope this will not have disastrous consequences, in changing the name for a very well-known taxon. Compare Lindroth's opinion that Linnean names that denote composite species and have two or more meanings should be suppressed or synonymised.'

Dupuis: 'Je ne suis pas suffisamment informé pour pouvoir voter. Personne ne semble s'être soucié des conséquences des choix proposés (1) sur l'acception des noms génériques typifiés par *viaticus*, (2) sur les usages courants.'

Cogger: 'I do not believe that Richards's 1935 citation of an extant specimen as the type of *Sphex viaticus* Linnaeus, 1758, can constitute a lectotype designation. Such a loose interpretation of Article 74a could have quite appalling consequences in zoological nomenclature.'

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The original reference for a name placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion is:

viatica [sic], *Sphex*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.*, ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 570.

The reference to a lectotype designation accepted in the present Opinion is: for *Sphex viaticus* Linnaeus, 1758, by van der Vecht, 1958, *Entomol. Berichten*, vol. 18, p. 47.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P.(79)15 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1157.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

15 January 1980